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Letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement issued on 22 September 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement

The European Union,

referring to the Lusaka Agreement of 1 September 1999, its common position of 8 November 1999 and its statements of 16 July 1999, 30 November 1999, 9 June 2000 and 21 August 2000, the relevant Security Council resolutions, and particularly resolution 1304 (2000), and to the statement by the Chairman of the Security Council of 5 September 2000,

and reacting to the statements made by the Congolese authorities on 23 August 2000 in Kinshasa before the diplomatic corps and the proposals made by the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in a letter recently addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Member States of the European Union:

- Reaffirms its attachment to the Lusaka Agreement, the only consensual reference point currently serving as a basis for a negotiated solution to the conflict and the action of the international community, and particularly that of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, in favour of a return to peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region;

- Alarmed at proposals to suspend application of that Agreement and the likelihood that such an initiative would involve a general resumption of hostilities and consequently, of jeopardizing the United Nations peacekeeping operation;

- Urges the parties to the Lusaka Agreement to agree on ways of giving fresh impetus to the peace process;

- Recalls that a return to peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region is conditional upon respect for the rules of international law, consolidation of the ceasefire and a negotiated settlement of the problems of security, protection of the population and of human rights and the restoration of democracy;

- Recalls the devastating effect of the war on the population and urges all parties to facilitate the movement and the work of humanitarian personnel and organizations;

- Appeals to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to the other signatories to the Lusaka Agreement, in order to preserve the peace process begun in Lusaka and to render the Agreement operational once again, to restore a minimum of mutual confidence by respecting the ceasefire, implementing the withdrawal provided for by the Kampala agreement and the tripartite agreement (Uganda, Rwanda, United Nations) concerning the town of

Kisangani, and by confirming and applying urgently the guarantees for security and free movement approved by them and confirmed verbally by the Kinshasa Government on the occasion of Mr. Abubakar's mission but still not effective, though essential to the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC);

– Also calls upon the Governments of Uganda and Rwanda, as well as the other signatory States, to put into practice, without delay, United Nations Security Council resolution 1304 (2000) and to implement their proposals for redeploying their troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

– Considers that a return to peace can be assisted by direct negotiations, provided that the terms of the Lusaka Agreement, the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the interests of all the parties to the conflict are taken into consideration and that such negotiations aim to restore the authority of the Congolese State throughout its territory;

– Reaffirms its strong support for inter-Congolese political dialogue and, in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the Lusaka Agreement, appeals to the Congolese Government also to take the necessary measures without further delay, to ensure, in particular, that individuals are free to become involved in political activities, and that a political dialogue is initiated among the Congolese, a prerequisite for the establishment of the rule of law and civil peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also urges the other Congolese parties to work in a constructive manner so as to facilitate this dialogue.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.